(b) the actual amount utilized by the State Government for the purpose during the last three years; and

(c) whether financial assistance provided had been fully utilized, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Non-Timber Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants" was under implementation during Ninth Plan for increasing production of Non-Timber Forest Produce including Medicinal Plants. An amount of Rs. 95.87 lakh was provided to the Government of Uttar Pradesh during 2000-01 & 2001-02.

(b) and (c) The amount released has been fully utilized by the State Government.

Permission for production of Bt. cotton on commercial level in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra

†404. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has given permission to Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra to produce Bt. Cotton on commercial level;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Government have received report about the success of experiments carried out so far regarding the production of Bt. cotton in these States; and

(c) if so, the names of departments to which the said report belongs to and what has been mentioned in the report?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The Genetic Engineering Approval Committee accorded conditional clearance for commercial cultivation of three Bt. cotton hybrids developed by M/s Mahyco, Mumbai for a period of three years from April, 2002 to March, 2005 in six States namely Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

(b) and. (c) The Performance Reports from the State Departments of Agriculture have not yet been received.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.